AMBIENT AIR QUALITY
IN THE
SARNIA AREA

ANNUAL REPORT 1985

June, 1986

Ministry of the Environment
Ontario

D.A. McTAVISH, Director
Southwestern Region

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Technical Support Section

Southwestern Region

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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SUMMARY

Ambient air quality monitoring in the Sarnia area during 1985 revealed that levels of air pollutants are normally low. Levels of total suspended particulates continue to indicate a trend of reduced levels. Levels of sulphur dioxide were satisfactory and the Air Pollution Index remained below the Advisory Level.

Sarnia continues to experience levels of carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen that compare favourably with other communities in Ontario and there were no excursions above the criteria for desirable ambient air quality for these pollutants in 1985. There were occasional levels of hydrogen sulphide and mercaptans above the criterion for desirable ambient air quality. The criterion is based on odour.

The criterion for ozone was exceeded in Sarnia and at the rural monitoring site east of Sarnia. The excursions were primarily attributable to the long-range transport of ozone into the Sarnia area. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is requiring individual states to implement control strategies that will ensure attainment of the U. S. primary air quality standard for ozone by December 31, 1987. These control strategies should reduce the long-range transport of ozone into Ontario. Ontario is also developing control strategies for ozone. New emission standards for Canadian cars starting with 1988 model years should appreciably reduce ozone precursor chemicals.

Fluoride levels south of Courtright continue to exceed the criteria for desirable ambient air quality. However, the criteria are based on the protection of the most sensitive vegetation and Ministry phytotoxicology studies do not reveal vegetation damage off the property of the source.

INTRODUCTION

The ambient air monitoring network of the Ministry of the Environment measures the levels of a number of pollutants that may directly or indirectly adversely affect health, vegetation or the enjoyment of property. Data on levels of pollutants are compared with Ontario's criteria for desirable ambient air quality. Thus, excursions above these criteria reflect undesirable conditions. Data are also used to determine trends in air quality and therefore, the effectiveness of pollution abatement, as well as to provide information on the effect of specific sources of pollutants and to formulate strategies to control pollution.

Ontario Hydro, the Lambton Industrial Society and private industry also operate ambient air monitors in the Sarnia area. The Ministry also conducts special air monitoring surveys for short periods of time as well as conducting phytotoxicology surveys to determine the effects of air pollutants on vegetation. The results of the special surveys and monitoring by other groups are not contained in this report.

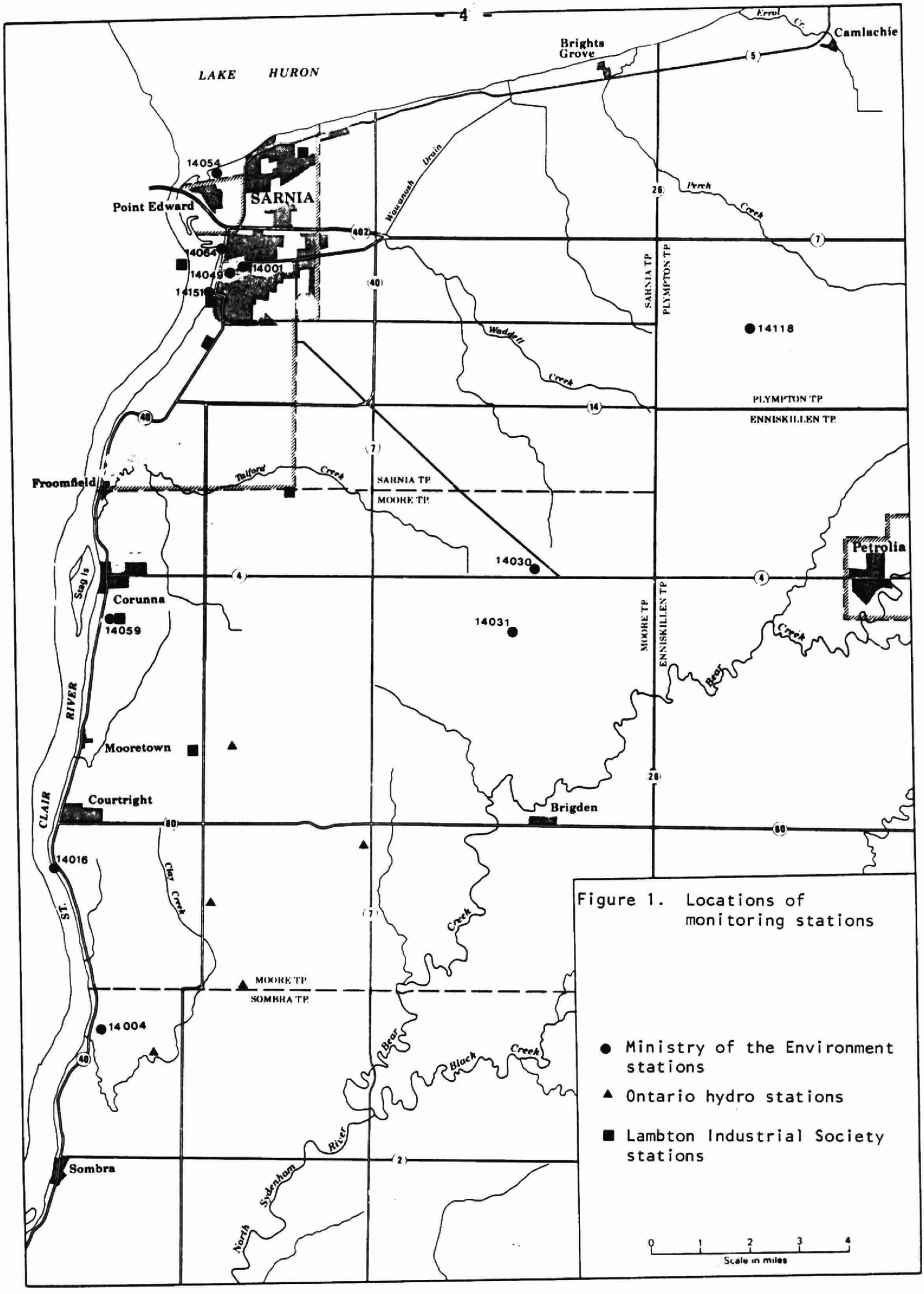
Emissions from industrial and other stationary sources of pollutants in Ontario are regulated by this Ministry through a Certificate of Approval. In the Sarnia area, there is a special control strategy for sulphur dioxide. This special control strategy requires major sources of sulphur dioxide to provide supplementary control if the ambient levels of sulphur dioxide approach the 24-hour criterion for desirable ambient air quality.

DESCRIPTION OF MONITORING NETWORK

Continuous and intermittent monitors for determining levels of pollutants in ambient air are maintained by the Ministry at sites dispersed through the Sarnia area. However, monitoring is more intensive in the area of downtown Sarnia because it has a higher potential for elevated levels of pollutants than most other areas in Lambton County. This higher potential is a result of the downtown area being affected by emissions from industries and power generating plants to the south, as well as dense vehicular traffic and commercial establishments in the downtown core. The industries and power generating plants to the south of Sarnia tend to be located along the St. Clair River and plumes from different sources of emissions can create an additive impact when they impinge on the downtown area. Furthermore, the taller buildings situated in the downtown core affect wind currents and may bring pollutants from aloft down towards ground level.

The location of the Ministry's fixed monitoring sites are illustrated in Figure 1. Also included in Figure 1 are the locations of monitoring sites of Ontario Hydro and the Lambton Industrial Society. Specific Ministry locations and the pollutants monitored are listed in Table A1, Appendix 1.

Criteria for desirable ambient air quality and the supporting rationale for the establishment of these criteria appear in Table A2, Appendix 1.


LAKE HURON
Brights Grove
Errol Cr.
Camlachie
14054
SARNIA
Point Edward
Wawanosh Drain
Perch Creek
14064
14049
14001
14151
SARNIA TP
PLYMPTON TP
14118
Waddell Creek
PLYMPTON TP
ENNISKILLEN TP
Froomfield
Telford Creek
SARNIA TP
MOORE TP
Petrolia
14030
Stag Is
Corunna
14059
14031
MOORE TP
ENNISKILLEN TP
Bear Creek
CLAIR RIVER ST.
Mooretown
Courtright
Brigden
14016
Clay Creek
Creek
MOORE TP
SOMBRA TP
14004
Bear Creek
Black Creek
River
Sombra
North Sydenham
Figure 1. Locations of monitoring stations
Ministry of the Environment stations
Ontario hydro stations
Lambton Industrial Society stations
0 1 2 3 4
Scale in miles

METEOROLOGICAL DATA

Meteorological data are utilized in predicting the stability of the atmosphere which affects the dispersion of pollutants. These data also assist in identifying sources of elevated levels of pollutants and in validating mathematical models designed to predict the dispersion of air pollutants.

The main meteorological tower in the area is located at station 14016 immediately south of Courtright. Wind speed and direction are measured at 10 metres, 30 metres and 92 metres above ground level. In addition, ambient temperature is measured at the 10-metre level and the gradients in temperature between the 10-metre level and the 30- and 90-metre levels are determined. These meteorological data are transmitted to Toronto by a telemetry system. Meteorologists utilize the data to forecast the stability of the atmosphere. This forecasting feature is an intrinsic part of the Air Pollution Index and the Lambton Industrial Meteorological Alert, both discussed later in this report.

Meteorological data from station 14016 have been used to compute the average concentrations of some pollutants for specific wind directions and to determine the number of hours that the criteria for ozone have been exceeded for different wind directions.

A summary of the frequency of winds for different directions at the 30-metre level of station 14016 appears in Table A3, Appendix 2. The data indicate that the prevailing winds are from the south.

MONITORING PROGRAM AND RESULTS

PARTICULATES

Primary sources of man-caused emissions of particulates to the atmosphere are vehicular traffic, materials handling and combustion processes. Wind-blown particulates from open fields, sand and coal piles, roadways and roofs are also significant sources.

Measurements for particulates are reported as total suspended particulates and soiling index. Total suspended particulates are determined by drawing measured volumes of air through a pre-weighed filter for 24-hours and subsequently weighing the quantity of particulates collected on the filter. Soiling index is measured by determining the difference in the amount of light that is transmitted through a filter before and after ambient air is drawn through the filter for 1 hour. The amount of light transmitted through the filter is affected by the quantity, size, shape and opaqueness of particulates retained on the filter. Soiling index can be correlated to levels of suspended particulates and can be determined without the time-consuming laboratory analysis required for determining concentrations of total suspended particulates. For these reasons, soiling index is used as a substitute for suspended particulate values when data are required quickly such as in the Air Pollution Index.

Total Suspended Particulates

Two criteria for desirable ambient air quality exist for total suspended particulate matter. One is 120 micrograms of suspended particulates per cubic metre of air (ug/m^3) averaged over a 24-hour period. The other is an annual geometric mean of 60 ug/m^3. The criterion for 24 hours is based on impairment of visibility and adverse

health effects associated with combined concentrations of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates. The annual criterion is based on public awareness of suspended particulates and property damage.

During 1985 total suspended particulates were sampled at 8 sites in the Sarnia area. At 7 of the sites sampling was conducted on an every-sixth-day schedule for the year while at the remaining site, station 14016, sampling was conducted on a daily basis. The national monitoring networks of the United States and Canada operate on the same every-sixth-day sampling schedule for suspended particulate matter. The Ministry operates the daily schedule at station 14016 to evaluate how representative the every-sixth-day schedule is of the complete year. The 1985 data indicate that the every-sixth-day schedule was representative of conditions throughout 1985.

Average levels of total suspended particulates in 1985 were the lowest experienced since monitoring began in the Sarnia area. In the Sarnia area the annual criterion has not been exceeded at any monitoring site since 1981. There were few excursions over the 24-hour criterion. The lower levels of suspended particulate matter in the downtown area in recent years is most likely attributable to fewer emissions from construction projects associated with the redevelopment of the core area.

A summary of 1985 data for total suspended particulate matter appears in Table 1. Figure 2 shows the annual geometric means and the frequencies of excursions above the 24-hour criterion for 1985 at the approximate locations of the monitoring sites.

The trend of improved levels of total suspended particulate matter is illustrated by Figures 3 and 4.

Table 1. Summary of 1985 data for total suspended particulates.

Station No.	No. of samples collected	Annual geometric mean (ug/m^3)	No. of values greater than 24-hour criterion	Percentage of Values greater than 24-hour criterion
14001	57	35	0	0
14016	336	34	5	1
14016-S	58	33	1	2
14030	58	36	1	2
14031	55	34	1	2
14054	58	36	1	2
14059	57	34	1	2
14064	57	46	2	4
14151	58	44	3	5

Note: Data from station 14016-S are every-sixth-day sampling results extracted from the daily sampling data for station 14016.

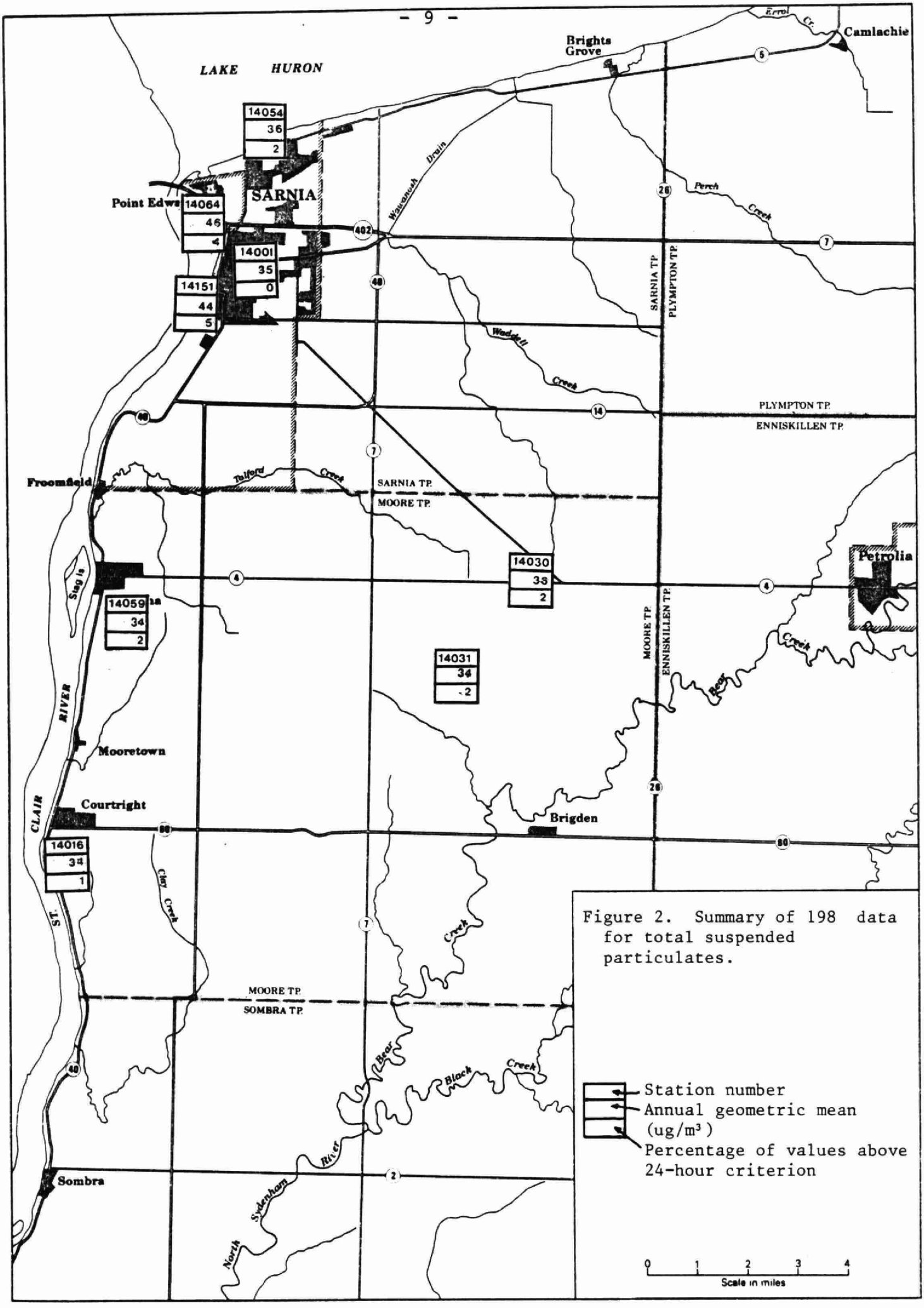


Figure 2. Summary of 198 data for total suspended particulates.

Figure 3. Trend in annual levels of total suspended particulates based on data averaged for five monitoring stations.

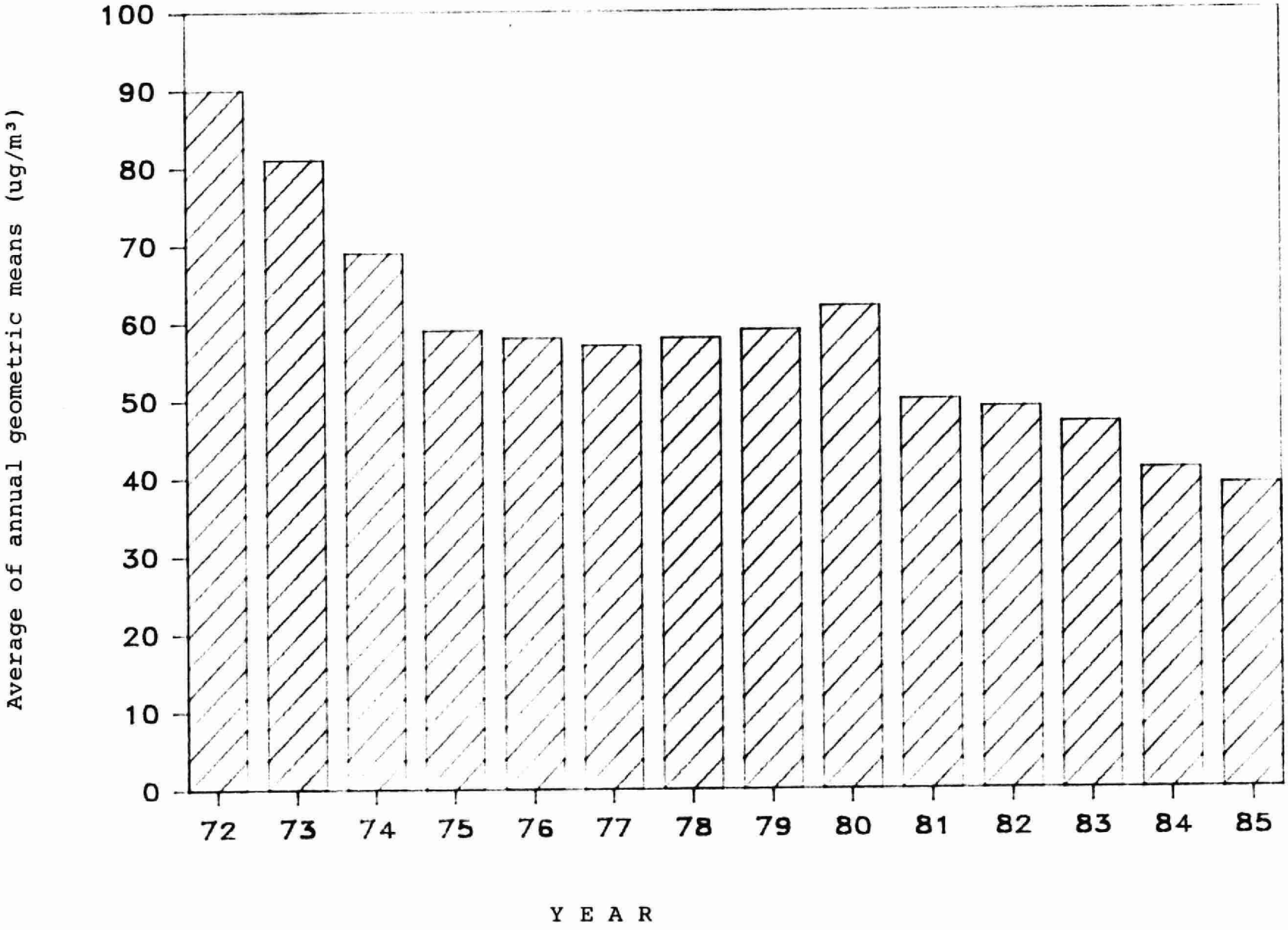


Figure 4. Trend in excursions above 24-hour criterion for total suspended particulates based on data from five monitoring stations.

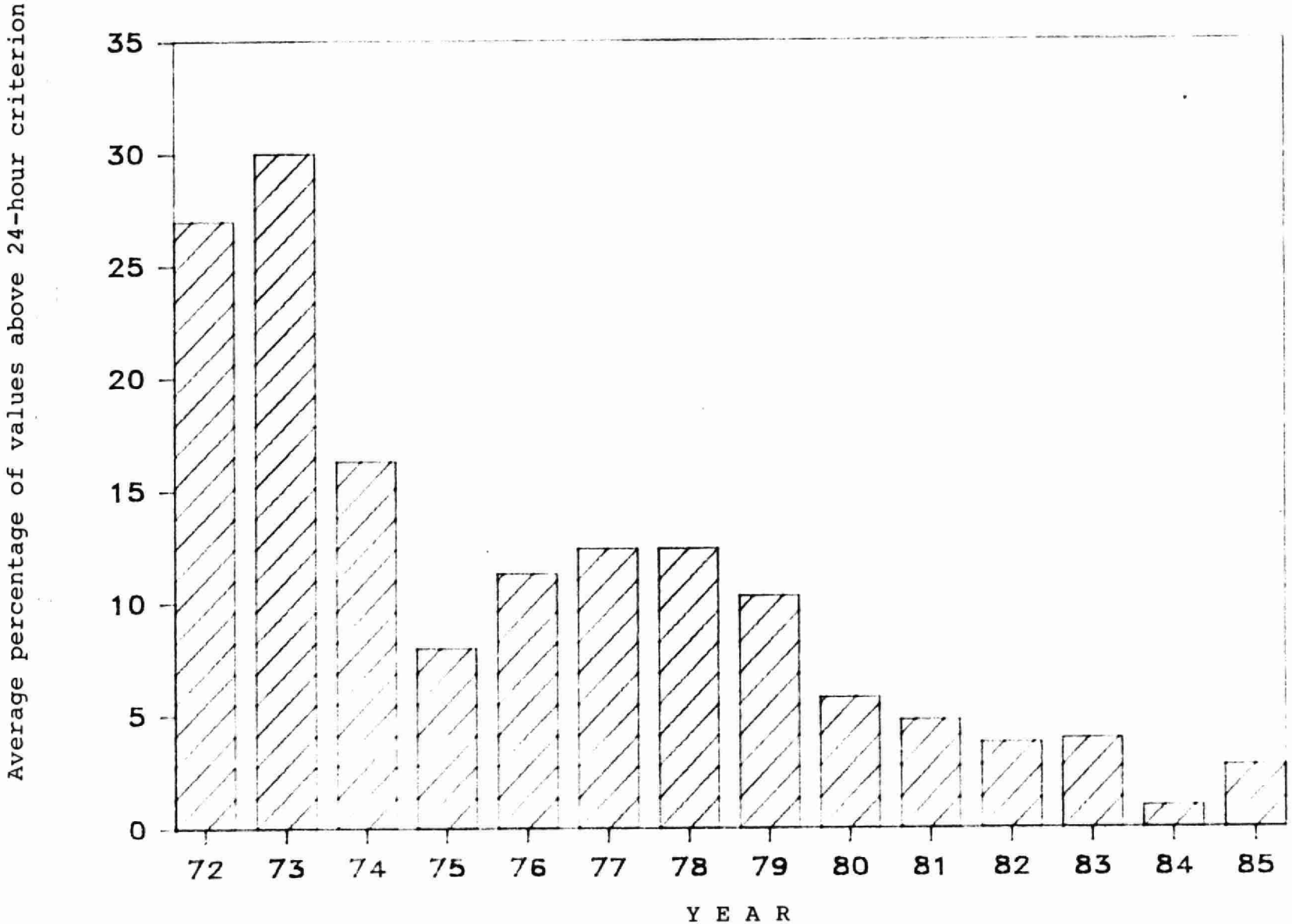


Figure 3 shows that for 5 monitoring sites[1] in operation since 1972 the average annual geometric mean has been lowered by more than 50 percent while Figure 4 shows that the frequencies of excursions above the 24-hour criterion have been reduced by over 90 percent.

In general levels of total suspended particulates in the Sarnia area compare very favourably with levels experienced in other areas of Ontario. Correlations between 1985 data for wind direction and total suspended particulate matter revealed that higher levels of total suspended particulate matter occurred at all Sarnia area stations, except station 14059 in Corunna, when winds were from the south. This is not surprising since poorer dispersion conditions are frequently associated with southerly winds and the backs of high pressure systems. Emissions from vehicular traffic north of station 14059 may be the cause of the results for this station being an exception. The ESE correlation for station 14016, south of Courtright, may indicate an impact by emissions from the Lambton Generating Station of Ontario Hydro. Figure 5 provides the relative correlations at each monitoring station for 1985 data. The longer the line the greater the correlation.

(1) The stations are 14001, 14016, 14054, 14064 and 14151. Station 14064 replaced station 14049 in 1978 but comparison studies revealed that the levels of suspended particulates were similar at both sites.

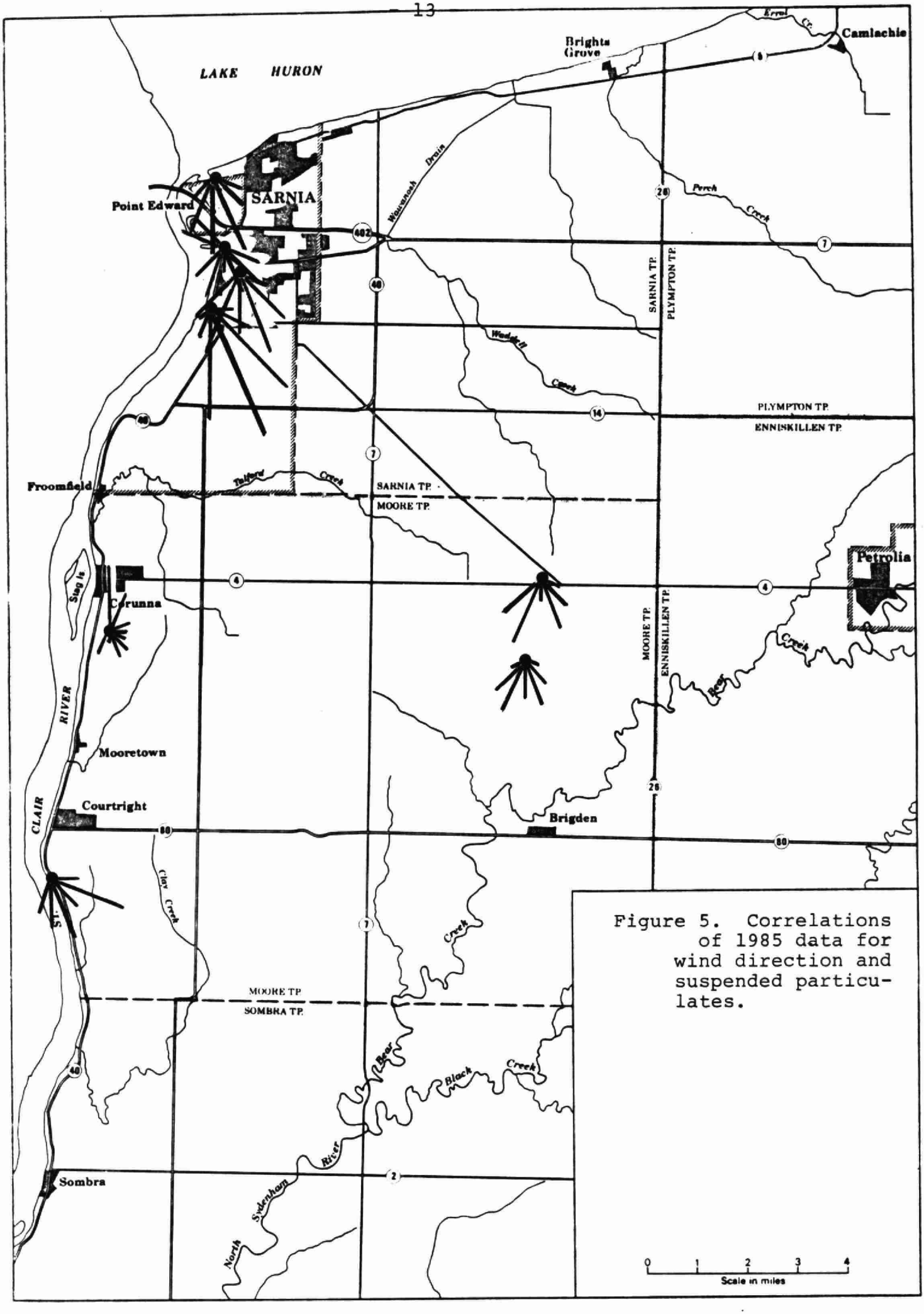


Figure 5. Correlations of 1985 data for wind direction and suspended particulates.

Chemical Analysis of Suspended Particulates

As part of a Province-wide study, samples of suspended particulates collected at 4 stations in the Sarnia area were analyzed for cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel and vanadium. For 2 of these stations samples were also analyzed for nitrates and sulphates. A summary of data from 1976 through 1985 for these constituents is contained in Table A4, Appendix 3. Data for sulphates are erroneously high, based on the findings of several studies of the sampling method utilized by the Ministry. Investigations have not revealed a sampling method that is practical and will provide more accurate results for sulphates while maintaining the accuracy level for the other pollutants.

Criteria for desirable ambient air quality exist for cadmium, lead, nickel and vanadium. There have been no values above the criteria and in general, the concentrations of the various metals have been low.

SULPHUR OXIDES

Combustion of sulphur-containing fuels comprises the predominant source of man-made emissions of sulphur oxides. In the Sarnia area, large quantities of these fuels are consumed by power-generating plants in Michigan and Ontario and by petroleum and petrochemical industries located south of downtown Sarnia.

The Ministry of the Environment monitors sulphur oxides in the Sarnia area using continuous analyzers for gaseous sulphur dioxide and by analyzing suspended particulate matter for sulphate.

Sulphur Dioxide

Throughout 1985 the Ministry measured gaseous sulphur dioxide at 2 separate sites in the Sarnia area. At a third site, station 14004 located south of Courtright, sulphur dioxide was measured until April 1, 1985, when the station was terminated. There were 11 other sites where monitors providing continuous measurements of sulphur dioxide were operated by Ontario Hydro, the Lambton Industrial Society or private industry. Data for these sites are not included in this report but were utilized to confirm conclusions drawn from the data generated by the Ministry's instruments.

Data are reported as 1-hour average concentrations, 24-hour average concentrations (midnight to midnight) and annual average concentrations. Criteria for desirable ambient air quality are 0.25 parts of sulphur dioxide per million parts of air (ppm) averaged for a 1-hour period, 0.10 ppm averaged for 24 hours and 0.02 ppm as an annual average. The criteria for the 1-hour and annual averages are based on the protection of vegetation while the 24-hour criterion is based on the protection of human health. None of these criteria were exceeded at the Ministry monitoring stations in 1985. A summary of the 1985 data appears in Table 2.

In the past, there was concern about the frequency of excursions in the downtown area of Sarnia above the 24-hour criterion for desirable ambient air quality. This concern resulted in a new regulation called LIMA[1] being implemented in April, 1981. This regulation requires major industrial emitters of sulphur dioxide to provide additional controls either continuously or when required by the Ministry. The Ministry may require industries to provide increased control when meteorological conditions conducive to adverse air quality are likely to persist and sulphur dioxide levels are elevated at specified monitoring sites.

(1) Lambton Industrial Meteorological Alert

Table 2. Summary of 1985 data for sulphur dioxide

Station No.	Annual average (ppm)	Percentage of values above criterion 1-hour	24-hour	Maximum 1-hour value (ppm)	Maximum 24-hour (daily) value (ppm)
14004	(0.00)	0.00	0	0.10	0.02
14016	0.00	0.00	0	0.22	0.04
14064	0.01	0.00	0	0.19	0.07

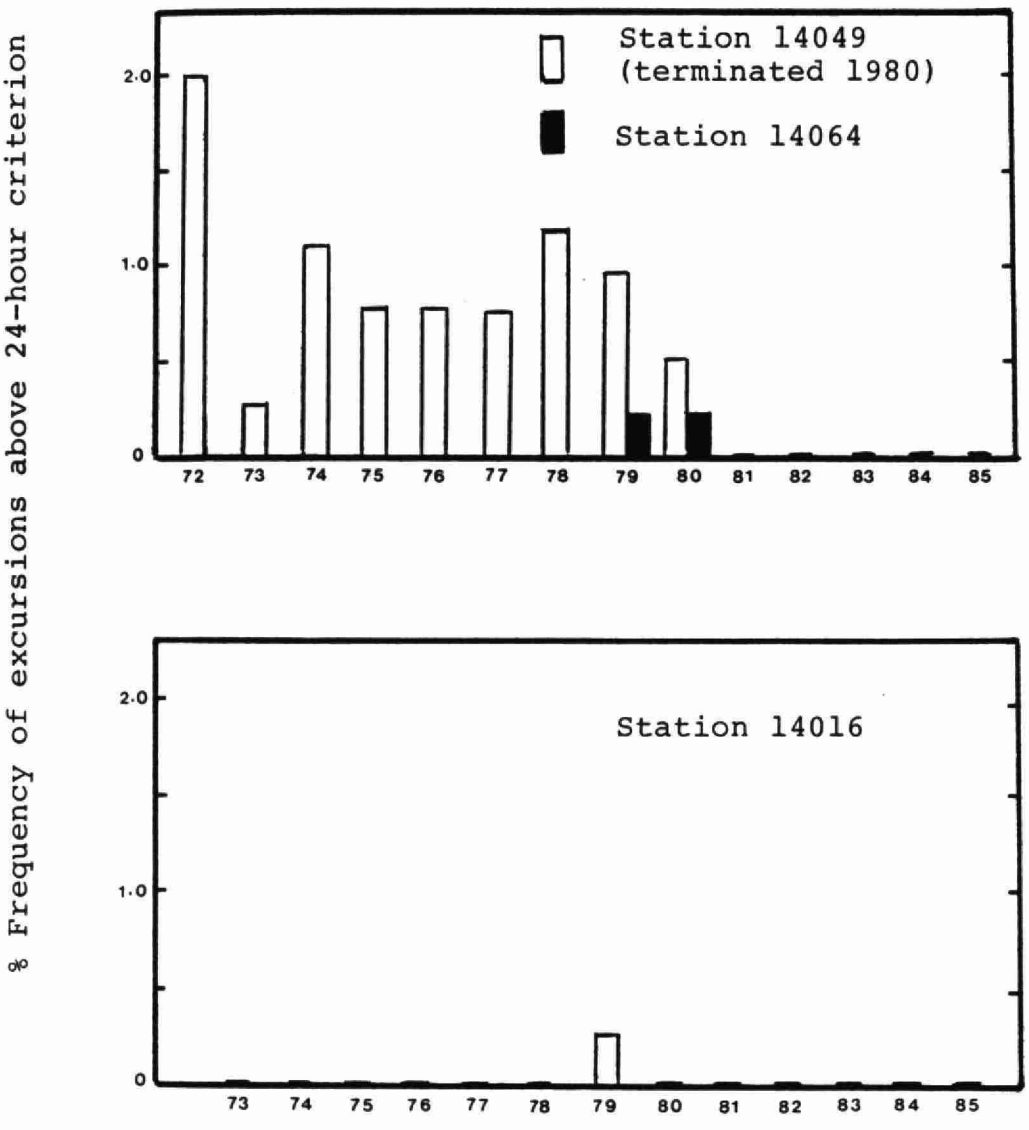
Note: Bracketed value not representative of complete year.

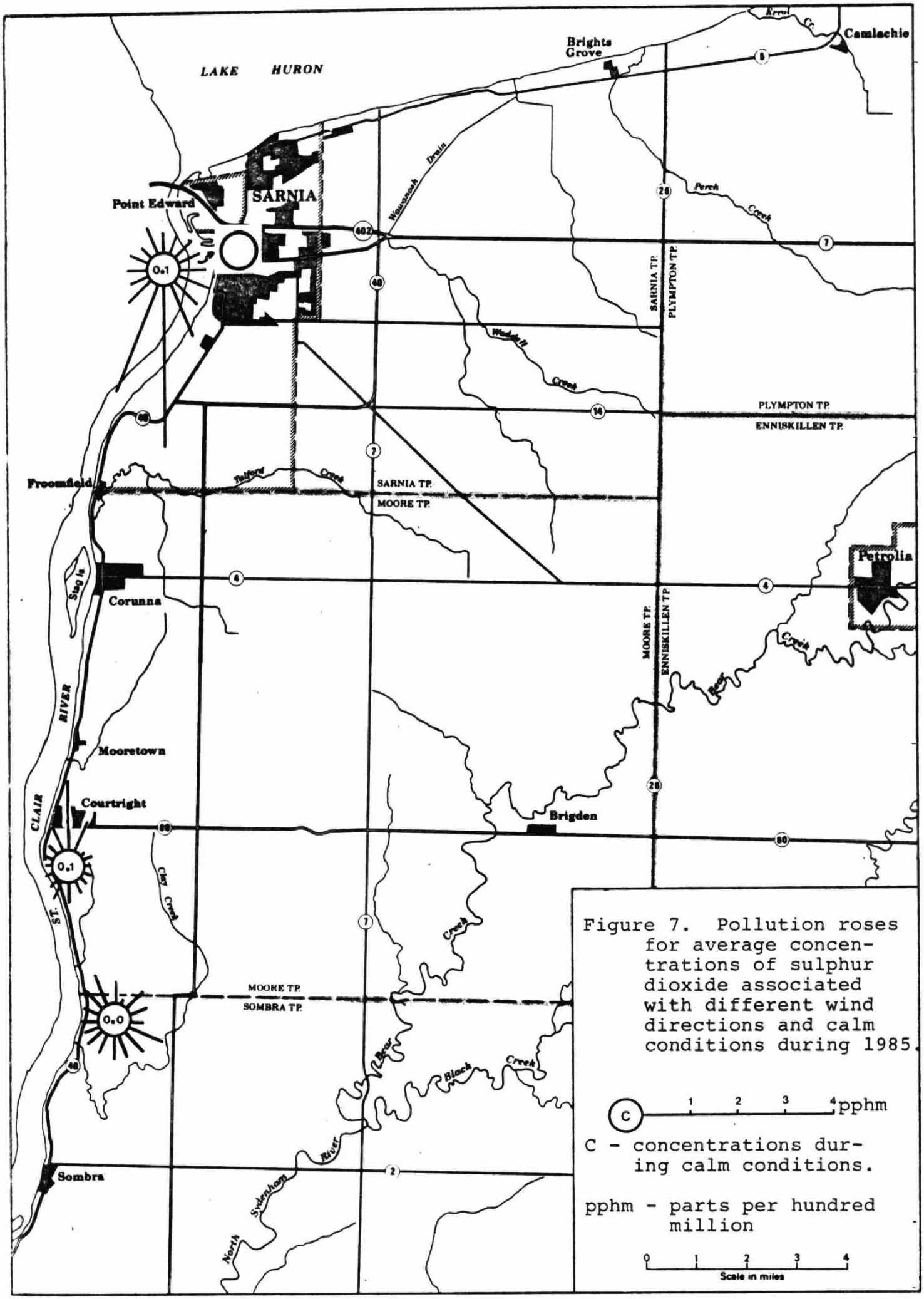
This control strategy has been very successful. Since the regulation went into effect the 24-hour criterion has not been exceeded at the Ministry's monitoring stations, nor has the Air Pollution Index reached the Avisory Level of 32.

Figure 6 shows the decreasing trend in the frequencies of excursions above the 24-hour criterion at three Ministry monitoring stations. Station 14064 is located in the downtown area, and station 14016 is located south of Courtright. Station 14049 was located in downtown Sarnia but its instrumentation was relocated to station 14064 because of redevelopment in the immediate area of the station. It is very evident that excursions have occurred most frequently in the downtown area and that excursions have not occurred since LIMA was implemented in 1981.

Pollution roses for sulphur dioxide measurements appear in Figure 7. The roses were created using data for wind direction and speed from the 30-metre level of station

Figure 6. Trend in frequency of excursions above 24-hour criterion for sulphur dioxide, 1972 to 1985.




LAKE HURON
Brights Grove
Camlachie
Kerrs Cr.
SARNIA
Point Edward
Wawanosh Drain
Perch Creek
SARNIA TP.
PLYMPTON TP.
Wedekind Creek
PLYMPTON TP.
ENNISKILLEN TP.
Telford Creek
Froomfield
SARNIA TP.
MOORE TP.
Petrolia
Stag Is.
Corunna
MOORE TP.
ENNISKILLEN TP.
Bear Creek
CLAIR RIVER
Mooretown
Courtright
Brigden
ST. CLAIR
Clay Creek
MOORE TP.
SOMBRA TP.
Bear Creek
Black Creek
Sombra
North Sydenham River
0.1
0.1
0.0
Figure 7. Pollution roses for average concentrations of sulphur dioxide associated with different wind directions and calm conditions during 1985.
C 1 2 3 4 pphm
C - concentrations during calm conditions.
pphm - parts per hundred million
0 1 2 3 4
Scale in miles

14016 and concentrations of sulphur dioxide determined at the various stations. The length of the line corresponding to a specific wind direction indicates the average sulphur dioxide concentration when the winds are from that direction. The rose for station 14064, located in downtown Sarnia reflects appreciably higher levels of sulphur dioxide when winds are blowing from industries located in south Sarnia and further south. However, since the ambient air quality criteria are met the influence of the local emission sources is not creating an apparent problem.

The rose for the two stations south of Courtright do not reveal any appreciable impact for the emissions of the nearby power generating stations of Ontario Hydro and Detroit Edison.

AIR POLLUTION INDEX

The Air Pollution Index (API) is a system designed to control or prevent an air pollution episode. Meteorological forecasting and current readings of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates are utilized to predict the potential for persistence of pollution conditions that are reported as the API.

Data for suspended particulates are provided by the measurement of soiling index and a correlation between concentrations of suspended particulates and soiling index. Hourly values of soiling index and gaseous sulphur dioxide are used to compute 24-hour running averages which are inserted into the following equation:

$$API = 3.02\ (9.75\ COH + 125.95\ SO_2)^{0.76}$$

where: COH is the 24-hour running average for soiling index expressed in units of coefficient of haze. SO_2 is the 24-hour running average for sulphur dioxide expressed in parts per million.

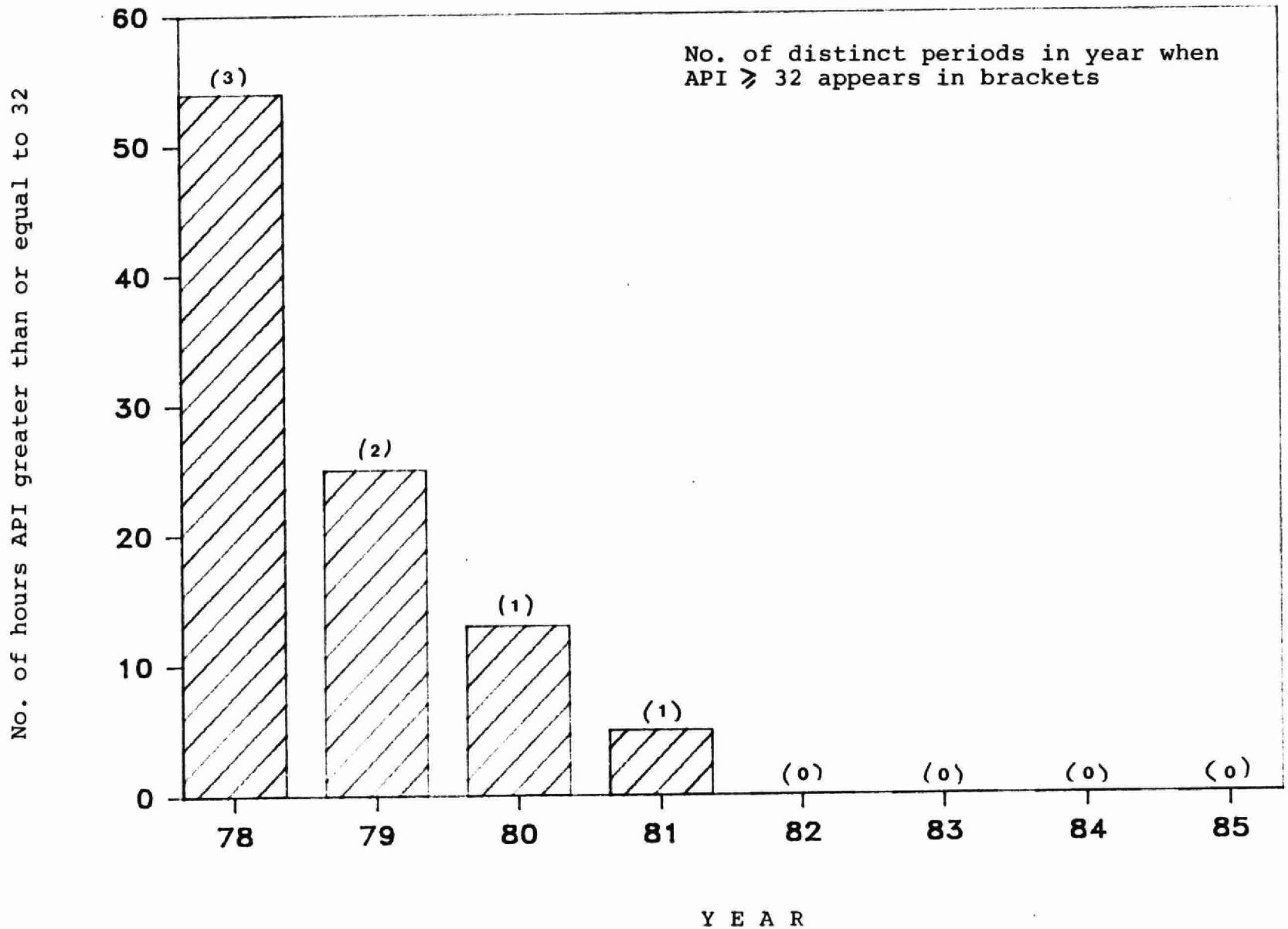
The sulphur dioxide and soiling index data utilized to determine the API for Sarnia are obtained from monitors operated at station 14064 in the downtown core.

API values below 32 are considered acceptable. Values from 32 to 49 are at the Advisory Level and if adverse weather conditions are likely to persist, those responsible for major emissions are advised to prepare to curtail operations. At an API of 50, major emitters may be ordered to curtail operations. At 75, further cutbacks can be required. If the API reaches 100 all contributors of pollution that are not essential to public health and safety may be ordered to cease operations.

The LIMA regulation would result in sulphur dioxide emissions being curtailed well before the API reached 50. A very remote possible exception would be if the soiling index were extremely high and levels of sulphur dioxide were low. Since the API was introduced in Sarnia in December, 1977 it has not reached 50.

Since LIMA was introduced in April, 1981, API levels have been below 32. A favourable comparison between levels in recent years and levels of the initial years of reporting the API can be seen in Figure 8. The annual average for the API was 7.5 in 1985.

Figure 8. Trend in Air Pollution Index Levels.



TOTAL REDUCED SULPHUR

Gaseous total reduced sulphur compunds often exhibit malodours at very low concentrations. Mercaptans are reduced sulphur compounds that contain sulphur and hydrogen and exhibit characteristics similar to hydrogen sulphide. Hydrogen sulphide, also a reduced sulphur compound, is commonly referred to as "rotten egg gas" and many mercaptans are also malodorous at extremely low concentrations.

Both hydrogen sulphide and mercaptans originate in nature from anaerobic decomposition of organic matter containing sulphur. In the Sarnia area, the release of hydrogen sulphide and mercaptans into the atmosphere may result from the processing of petroleum feedstocks containing sulphur.

The criterion established to represent desirable ambient air quality with respect to hydrogen sulphide is 0.02 ppm as an average for 1 hour. This criterion is based on the offensive odours exhibited by this gas. Similarly, the criterion for mercaptans is based on odour and was established as 0.01 ppm averaged for 1 hour and expressed as methyl mercaptan.

Unfortunately, the monitoring instrument in Sarnia does not segregate hydrogen sulphide from mercaptans but determines their combined concentrations and reports these concentrations as hydrogen sulphide. For the purpose of this report the combined concentrations of hydrogen sulphide and mercaptans are compared to the less restrictive hydrogen sulphide criterion.

During 1985 monitoring was conducted at station 14064 in the downtown area. At this station 2 excursions were detected above the 1-hour criterion. The excursions

were associated with moderately-high wind speeds from the south. A pollution rose, Figure 9, constructed for total reduced sulphur measurements at station 14064 indicates that higher levels occur when winds are blowing towards the monitoring stations from the industrialized area in south Sarnia. A summary of total reduced sulphur data appears in Table A5, Appendix 4.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Combustion processes represent man's major emissions of carbon monoxide. Emissions from motor vehicles are most significant because they occur near ground level and are concentrated in urban areas where the public may be exposed for lengthy periods. Industries and power generating plants normally provide adequate dispersion for their emissions to prevent unsatisfactory levels of carbon monoxide in the ambient air.

The criteria for carbon monoxide, which are based on the protection of human health, are 30 ppm averaged for 1 hour and 13 ppm averaged for any consecutive 8-hour period.

During 1985 carbon monoxide was monitored at station 14064, located in the downtown core at Centennial Park. The criteria for desirable ambient air quality were not exceeded. A summary of data for carbon monoxide measured at station 14064 since 1978 is presented in Table A5, Appendix 4, and illustrates long-term conformity below established criteria.

OXIDES OF NITROGEN

Gaseous oxides of nitrogen are emitted into the atmosphere by man through combustion processes. Nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide are the gaseous compounds of primary interest.

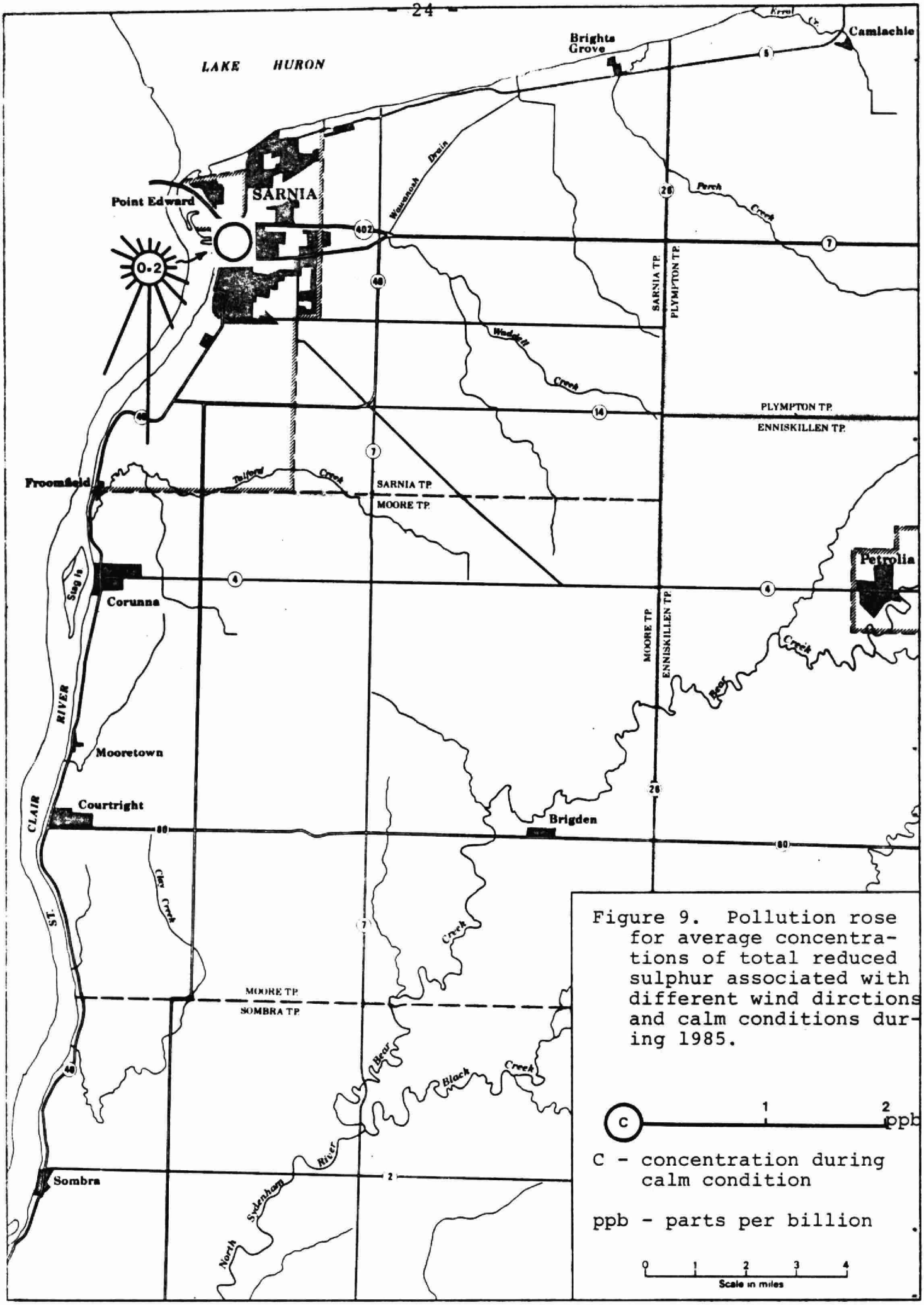


Figure 9. Pollution rose for average concentrations of total reduced sulphur associated with different wind dirctions and calm conditions during 1985.

C - concentration during calm condition

ppb - parts per billion

0 1 2 3 4
Scale in miles

Criteria for desirable ambient air quality exist for nitrogen dioxide, but not for nitric oxide or total oxides of nitrogen. The criteria, which are based on offensive odours and the protection of human health, are 0.20 ppm averaged for 1 hour and 0.10 ppm averaged for 24 hours. The 24-hour criterion has not been exceeded at station 14064 where monitoring began in 1978. The 1-hour criterion was not exceeded in 1985 and has only been exceeded once since 1978.

A summary of data for oxides of nitrogen appears in Table A5, Appendix 4. Levels are in ranges typical of communities the size of Sarnia.

Oxides of nitrogen in combination with reactive hydrocarbons and certain meteorological conditions play an important role in the formation of unsatisfactory levels of photochemical oxidants. Also, oxides of nitrogen react to form acids which are part of acidic precipitation. Therefore, consideration is being given to further controls on emissions of oxides of nitrogen. One such control to be implemented is stricter controls for emissions from 1988 model cars.

HYDROCARBONS

Emissions from motor vehicles are a primary man-made source of hydrocarbons in ambient air. Other significant man-made sources are incomplete combustion of fuels by industries and power plants, and evaporation losses during the manufacture, use, storage and transportation of materials containing volatile hydrocarbons. Natural phenomena also produce many hydrocarbons of which methane is the most abundant.

Throughout 1985 the Ministry monitored oxidants in the form of ozone at station 14064 in the downtown core of Sarnia. At station 14118, situated in a rural setting approximately 10 kilometres east of Sarnia monitoring was suspended for approximately 6 months while a new monitoring location was established nearby. Ozone normally accounts for 80 to 95 percent of the oxidants present in ambient air. Consequently, with technology for monitoring ozone being more accurate and efficient than for total oxidants, most regulatory agencies monitor for ozone.

Long-range transport of ozone and its precursor chemicals (oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbons) may account for a very significant portion of local levels of ozone. Long-range transport from distances greater than 200 kilometres has been reported in the literature. Therefore, successful control of oxidants will depend on control strategies implemented in the United States as well as in Ontario. The United States and Canada have been jointly addressing the significance of long-range transport of ozone and its precursor chemicals. The State of Michigan has a plan to control non-methane hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen in the Detroit area to ensure that the U.S. primary air quality standard for ozone(0.12 ppm, averaged for 1 hour) is attained by December 31, 1987. Ontario has launched a detailed study into oxidants and oxidant control strategies. Also, the proposed reductions for vehicle emissions in Canada should have a positive effect on ozone levels by reducing hydrocarbon and oxides of nitrogen levels.

In addition to ozone formed by photochemical reactions in the troposphere, ground level concentrations of ozone are occasionally increased by ozone from the stratosphere being transported downward. Ozone is naturally produced in minor amounts by lightning.

Owing to the wide range of effects associated with different hydrocarbons at various concentrations, no criteria for desirable ambient air quality have been established for total hydrocarbons. Instead control is achieved by setting criteria for desirable levels of specific hydrocarbons in ambient air and/or establishing standards which control the impact of emissions of specific hydrocarbons.

Total hydrocarbons have been measured at station 14064 in Centennial Park since July, 1978. Average levels of total hydrocarbons have been similar each year. A summary of data for hydrocarbons appears in Table A5, Appendix 4.

In 1977 and again in 1978, the Ministry conducted short-term intensified monitoring in the Sarnia area using mobile vans. These surveys [1] measured specific hydrocarbons throughout the Sarnia area. In 1982 a survey for specific hydrocarbons was conducted in the Vidal Street-Churchill Road area of Sarnia using a mobile monitoring van. This survey focussed on the hydrocarbons styrene and benzene and concluded that emissions were minor during the survey period.

OXIDANTS

Oxidants in the ambient air are primarily a result of a series of photochemical reactions and inter-reactions involving oxides of nitrogen and non-methane hydrocarbons. The reactions are promoted by certain meteorological conditions such as warm temperatures and intensive sunshine, resulting in higher levels of oxidants in the spring and summer months.

(1) Report on Ambient Air Surveys in the Sarnia Area, April, May and June, 1977, October and November 1978. ARB-TDA Report No. 03-81, Ministry of the Environment, March 1981.

Ontario's criterion for desirable ambient air quality established for ozone is 80 parts per billion (ppb) averaged for 1 hour. This criterion was established for the protection of vegetation, property and human health. Some oxidant-related effects that are detrimental to health are eye irritation and a decrease in performance during athletic endeavors.

During 1985 the criterion was exceeded 47 times at station 14064 and 25 times at station 14118, which operated for only 6 months. At both stations the frequencies of excursions were lower than in 1984. A summary of data for ozone appears in Table A6 of Appendix 4.

Pollution roses for 1985 are presented in Figure 10 to show the frequency of the total number of excursions above the criterion associated with different wind directions. At both stations the greatest frequency of excursions are associated with southerly and south-southwesterly winds. These winds are apt to be associated with the backs of high pressure systems or the area south of low pressure fronts which have weather favourable for photochemical reactions (clear sunny skies and warm temperatures) and which promote long-range transport of oxidants and their precursor chemicals.

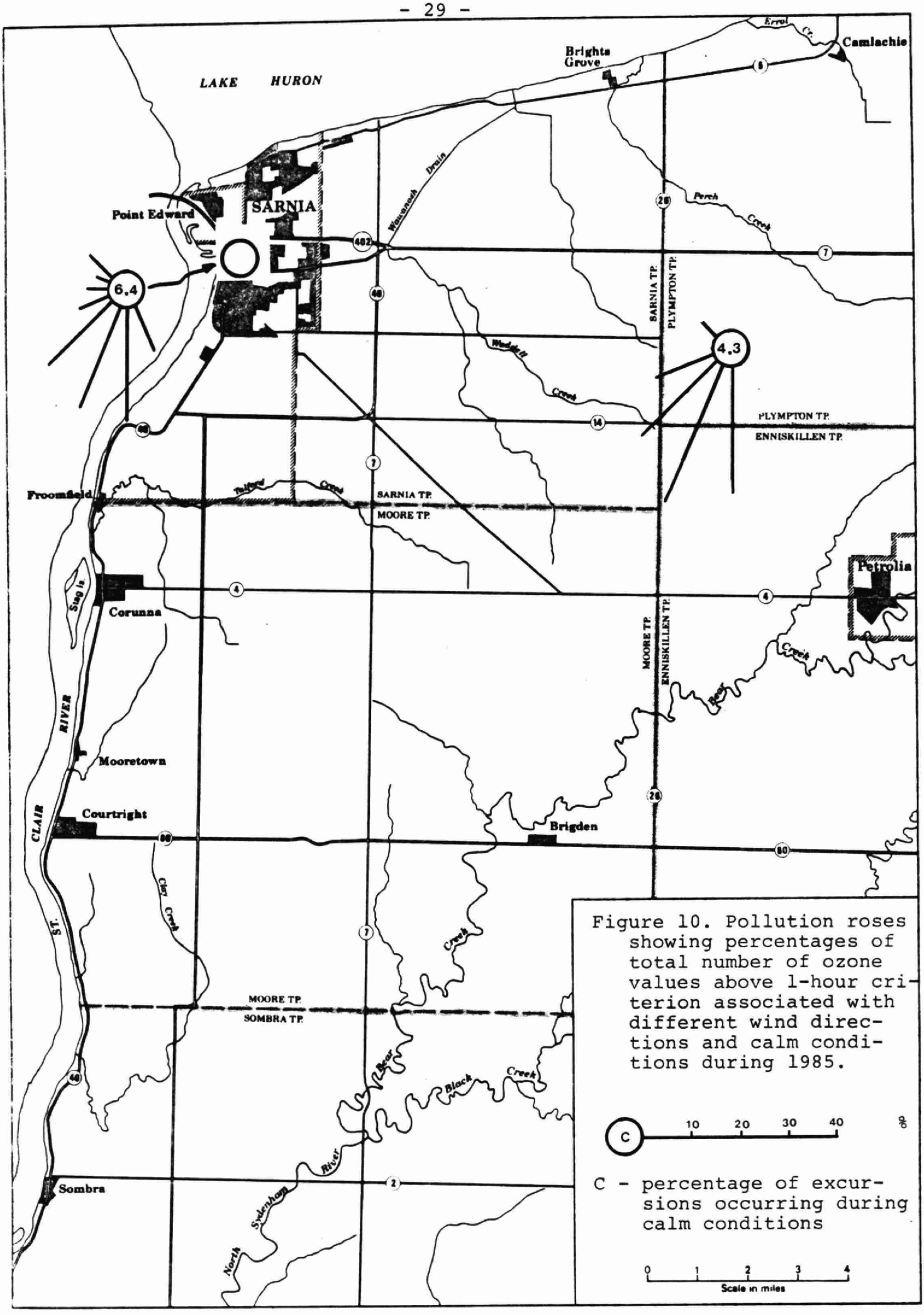


Figure 10. Pollution roses showing percentages of total number of ozone values above 1-hour criterion associated with different wind directions and calm conditions during 1985.

FLUORIDES

In the Sarnia area fluorides are emitted into the atmosphere from fossil-fueled power plants where it exists as an impurity in coal, from a fertilizer plant where it occurs as a constituent of phosphorus rock, and from petroleum refineries where it is used as a catalyst in alkylation.

Fluoridation rate is a measurement designed to indicate relative amounts of gaseous fluoride present over an extended period of time. A lime-impregnated filter is exposed to ambient air for thirty days and subsequently analyzed for fluoride content. This technique is inexpensive compared to other methods for measuring fluorides. Some fluorides in particulate form are collected on the filters.

Criteria for desirable ambient air quality established for fluoridation rate are based on protection of sensitive vegetation. A criterion of 40 micrograms of fluoride per 100 square centimetres of filter per 30 days (ug F/100 cm^2/30 days) exists for the growing season of April to October 15. A less stringent criterion of 80 ug F/100 cm^2/30 days exists for the period of October 16 to April 14. Since the months of April and October are common to both criteria and fluoridation rate is determined on a monthly basis, excursions above the criteria during these months are determined by comparing fluoridation rate to the average of the two criteria (60 ug F/100 cm^2/30 days).

The Ministry monitors fluoridation rate at station 14004, located south of Courtright in the vicinity of the fertilizer complex of Canadian Industries Limited and power generating plants of Ontario Hydro and Detroit Edison. Canadian Industries Limited has maintained a detailed monitoring network for fluoridation rate for many years and also operates a continuous fluoride analyzer.

Four of five fluoridation rate values determined for the growing season of 1985 were above the criterion for desirable ambient air quality. However, as in previous years, the 1985 phytotoxicology survey conducted by the Ministry did not reveal vegetation damage attributable to fluorides off company property. The lack of damage may be attributable to the absence of sensitive vegetation and other conducive environmental factors. Table 3 presents the data for fluoridation rate from 1976 through 1985.

Table 3. Fluoridation rates measured at station 14004 from 1976 to 1985 (ug F/100 cm^2/30 days)

Year	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1976						46	38	74	48	39	21	40	44
1977	42	23	53	32	78	31		79	112	29	104	50	58
1978	83	51	53	57	100	65	94	74	74	57	53	59	68
1979	32	63	25	56	54	64	68	129	89	49	32	26	57
1980	16	23	51	62	61	49	83	84		36	28	31	48
1981	48	48	30	49	69	78	116	122	95	71	55	24	67
1982	48	67	35	35	99	20	50		38	86	35	20	48
1983	17	30	37	42	43	75	60	68	42	73	30	30	46
1984	27	36	45	80	56	61	54	71	43	56	25	30	49
1985	37	27	34	40	39	47	45	89	58	31	50	32	44

NOTE: Underlined values exceeded criteria for desirable ambient air.

APPENDIX I

MONITORING NETWORK

Table A1. Locations of monitoring stations and parameters being monitored.

Station No.	Location	Parameters measured	Height of measurements	Purpose of stations and comments
14001	Sarnia General Hospital	Suspended particulates	16 m.	Historical station which has been in operation since 1962. Does not reflect ground level concentrations but does indicate more direct effects of particulates from high stacks and long-range transport.
14004	5½ miles south of Courtright	Fluoridation rate	4 m.	Monitors fluorides from fertilizer industry.
14016	1¼ miles south of Courtright	Suspended particulates continuous SO_2, WS, WD, Temp., WS, WD, Temp., WS, WD, Temp., telemetering equipment	1 m. 10 m. 30 m. 92 m.	Monitors suspended particulates and sulphur dioxide in relation to power generating plants. Provides meteorological data required for stability forecasts and air quality interpretations.
14030	R. R. #1 Corunna	Suspended particulates	3 m.	Monitors particulates in the vicinity of of Tricil Limited.
14031	R. R. #1 Mooretown	Suspended particulates	3 m.	Monitors particulates in the vicinity of Tricil Limited.
14049	Victoria Street	Continuous SO_2, CO, NO, NO_2 NO_x, O_3, total hydrocarbons, and suspended particulates	4 m.	Monitored air pollutants in a heavily populated area where the pollutants from traffic, commercial establishments and the heavily industrialized complex south of the monitoring station should be high relative to residential areas. This site was terminated in 1978 and the instruments moved to station 14064.

Table A1. continued

Station No.	Location	Parameters measured	Height of measurements	Purpose of stations and comments
14054	Sarnia Yacht Club	Suspended particulates	5 m.	Monitors suspended particulates in the north Sarnia-Point Edward area.
14059	Riverbend, Corunna	Suspended particulates	4 m.	Monitors suspended particulates in the residential area of Corunna which is surrounded by industry and generating stations.
14064	Centennial Park Front Street, Sarnia	Continuous SO_2, CO, NO, NO_2, NO_x, O_3, total hydrocarbons, total reduced sulphur. 1-hr COH, suspended particulates, telemetering equipment	3 m.	Monitors main air pollutants in an area adjacent to downtown Sarnia and in line with many point sources of pollution located to the south of the downtown area. Provides Air Pollution Index for Sarnia.
14118	Petrolia Public Utilities Commission Pumping Station, 4 miles west of Wyoming.	O_3	5 m.	Monitors ozone levels in a rural location
14151	Front and David Streets, downtown Sarnia	Suspended particulates	3 m.	Monitors pollutants in commercial area which is also affected by heavily industrialized area to south. Since this is the location of a monitoring station operated by the Lambton Industrial Society, cross checking of monitoring techniques is possible.

Table A2. continued

Parameter	Desirable ambient air quality criteria	Prime reasons for establishing criteria or monitoring parameter
Oxides of nitrogen	NONE	
Ozone	0.08 ppm averaged for 1 hour	Protection of vegetation, adverse health effects
Sulphur dioxide	0.25 ppm averaged for 1 hour	Protection of vegetation
	0.10 ppm averaged for 1 day (24 hours)	Protection of human health
	0.02 ppm averaged for 1 year	Protection of vegetation
Suspended particulates	120 ug/m^3 averaged for 24 hours	Based on health effects in conjunction with elevated levels of SO_2 and impairment of visibility.
	A geometric mean of 60 ug/m^3 during 1 year	Based on public awareness of visible pollution
Cadmium in suspended particulates	2.0 ug/m^3 averaged for 24 hours	Protection of human health
Lead in suspended particulates	5 ug/m^3 averaged for 24 hours	Protection of human health
	A geometric mean of 2 ug/m^3 over a 30-day period	Protection of human health
Nickel in suspended particulates	2.0 ug/m^3 averaged for 24 hours	Protection of vegetation
Vanadium in suspended particulates	2.0 ug/m^3 averaged for 24 hours	Protection of human health

APPENDIX 2

METEOROLOGICAL DATA

Table A3. Percent frequencies of wind directions at the 30-metre level of station 14016.

Year	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
1985	12.2	10.0	5.7	7.2	20.5	19.0	12.7	12.8
1984	12.6	9.8	6.1	8.2	22.1	15.6	11.0	14.7
1983	13.5	10.6	7.5	9.3	18.9	15.6	10.2	14.4
1982	12.1	9.5	5.2	8.9	22.4	16.4	12.6	12.9
1981	13.8	9.9	4.5	7.8	18.6	15.8	11.9	17.7
1980	12.6	8.6	5.6	7.5	20.1	15.1	14.4	16.1
1979	10.7	8.7	6.5	8.9	24.7	14.7	11.9	14.0
1978	13.6	12.7	6.3	6.0	19.0	17.2	11.9	13.3
1977	11.3	9.8	5.3	7.2	18.5	21.2	14.1	12.6
1976	12.2	9.2	3.5	4.7	18.1	20.5	15.1	16.7
1975	9.4	11.6	6.7	7.6	19.3	20.5	12.9	12.1
1974	12.2	10.6	5.2	5.7	20.6	21.6	12.1	12.1
1973	11.6	11.0	8.1	7.2	15.8	20.6	12.9	12.8
1972	15.8	12.0	6.5	8.3	17.4	16.4	11.7	12.0

APPENDIX 3

PARTICULATES

Table A4. Concentrations (ug/m^3) of various constituents of suspended particulates: 1976 to 1983.

Station and Year	Cadmium # of samples	Cadmium Avg.	Cadmium Max.	Chromium # of samples	Chromium AVg.	Chromium Max.	Copper # of samples	Copper Avg.	Copper Max.	Iron # of samples	Iron Avg.	Iron Max.	Lead # of samples	Lead Avg.	Lead Max.
14016															
1976	18	0.000	0.003	18	0.003	0.011	18	0.41	1.17	18	0.6	1.6	18	0.2	0.4
1977	21	0.000	0.002	21	0.008	0.025	21	0.31	0.58	21	0.6	1.8	21	0.2	0.6
1978	26	0.001	0.003	26	0.007	0.019	26	0.50	1.38	26	0.9	3.2	26	0.1	0.4
1979	35	0.001	0.004	35	0.002	0.010	35	0.39	1.01	35	0.8	2.9	35	0.2	0.6
1980	25	0.001	0.004	25	0.002	0.009	25	0.44	0.96	25	0.6	1.8	25	0.1	0.4
1981	124	0.001	0.004	124	0.003	0.014	124	0.19	1.59	124	0.6	2.6	124	0.1	0.3
1982	338	0.001	0.004	328	0.002	0.116	339	0.28	1.71	308	0.4	3.1	328	0.1	0.4
1983	339	0.001	0.004	332	0.002	0.015	339	0.34	1.72	339	0.5	3.6	340	0.1	0.4
1984	332	0.001	0.006	332	0.003	0.038	332	0.43	2.91	332	0.5	2.7	332	0.1	0.3
1985	336	0.001	0.006	336	0.006	0.036	336	0.39	2.36	336	0.5	3.0	336	0.1	0.2
14030															
1978	11	0.002	0.004	11	0.007	0.019	11	0.37	0.98	11	1.2	2.2	11	0.3	0.9
1979	50	0.001	0.004	50	0.007	0.022	50	0.32	1.36	55	0.6	2.2	54	0.1	0.4
1980	52	0.001	0.004	52	0.003	0.023	52	0.47	2.34	52	0.5	1.5	52	0.1	0.3
1981	58	0.001	0.009	58	0.005	0.053	58	0.17	0.56	58	0.7	4.5	58	0.1	1.4
1982	58	0.001	0.002	55	0.003	0.010	58	0.11	0.29	48	0.5	3.5	56	0.1	0.7
1983	54	0.001	0.004	55	0.003	0.018	57	0.17	0.45	57	0.4	1.4	57	0.1	0.2
1984	55	0.001	0.002	55	0.005	0.026	55	0.18	0.49	55	0.4	2.0	55	0.1	0.4
1985	58	0.001	0.004	58	0.007	0.055	58	0.11	0.25	58	0.5	3.0	58	0.1	0.1
14031															
1978	12	0.002	0.003	12	0.004	0.008	12	0.44	1.00	12	0.7	1.3	12	0.1	0.3
1979	54	0.001	0.005	54	0.010	0.189	54	0.25	0.97	58	0.5	2.7	54	0.1	0.4
1980	54	0.001	0.004	54	0.005	0.030	54	0.13	0.26	54	0.5	2.2	54	0.1	0.3
1981	58	0.001	0.003	58	0.005	0.035	58	0.15	0.95	58	0.6	2.6	58	0.1	0.2
1982	54	0.000	0.002	56	0.004	0.010	58	0.13	0.29	50	0.5	3.7	56	0.1	0.6
1983	55	0.001	0.001	53	0.002	0.012	55	0.25	1.54	55	0.6	2.3	55	0.1	0.3
1984	50	0.001	0.002	50	0.004	0.032	50	0.14	0.37	50	0.5	1.9	50	0.1	0.1
1985	55	0.001	0.004	55	0.007	0.029	55	0.06	0.13	55	0.6	2.3	55	0.1	0.1

Table A4. continued

Station and Year	Cadmium # of samples	Cadmium Avg.	Cadmium Max.	Chromium # of samples	Chromium Avg.	Chromium Max.	Copper # of samples	Copper Avg.	Copper Max.	Iron # of samples	Iron Avg.	Iron Max.	Lead # of samples	Lead Avg.	Lead Max.
14064															
1981	57	0.001	0.004	57	0.003	0.013	57	0.17	0.86	57	0.7	2.3	59	0.1	0.6
1982	52	0.001	0.008	47	0.002	0.009	52	0.21	1.66	53	0.7	2.9	50	0.2	1.1
1983	57	0.001	0.003	57	0.002	0.009	57	0.62	2.50	57	0.7	1.8	56	0.2	0.6
1984	57	0.001	0.002	57	0.002	0.015	57	0.40	2.00	57	0.5	1.7	57	0.2	0.4
1985	57	0.001	0.003	57	0.006	0.012	57	0.11	0.39	57	0.6	2.3	58	0.2	0.1

Table A4. continued

Station and Year	Manganese # of samples	Manganese Avg.	Manganese Max.	Nickel # of samples	Nickel Avg.	Nickel Max.	Nitrate # of samples	Nitrate Avg.	Nitrate Max.	Sulphate # of samples	Sulphate Avg.	Sulphate Max.	Vanadium # of samples	Vanadium Avg.	Vanadium Max.
14016															
1976	8	0.01	0.04	18	0.013	0.031	96	4.0	20.0	105	8.7	33.4	18	0.00	0.02
1977	21	0.03	0.09	21	0.022	0.165	54	3.7	27.8	54	10.0	24.6	21	0.01	0.08
1978	26	0.02	0.06	26	0.016	0.194	53	4.6	24.6	53	11.2	35.3	26	0.00	0.10
1979	35	0.02	0.07	35	0.008	0.042	56	5.4	14.8	56	12.4	41.0	35	0.00	0.01
1980	25	0.02	0.10	25	0.010	0.064	56	4.8	11.4	56	11.5	25.1	25	0.01	0.10
1981	124	0.02	0.12	124	0.005	0.045	128	4.2	13.5	126	8.7	37.0	124	0.01	0.08
1982	339	0.01	0.10	339	0.006	0.100	339	3.5	23.3	339	9.3	48.7	338	0.01	0.14
1983	339	0.01	0.12	328	0.005	0.031	340	3.1	9.5	340	8.4	46.0	339	0.01	0.21
1984	322	0.02	0.51	327	0.006	0.054	332	3.2	16.2	320	7.8	33.5	332	0.01	0.08
1985	336	0.02	0.12	336	0.006	0.037	336	2.9	20.7	336	7.0	22.2	336	0.01	0.09
14030															
1978				11	0.009	0.013									
1979	45	0.01	0.05	50	0.006	0.032							45	0.00	0.02
1980	50	0.01	0.08	52	0.004	0.026							50	0.00	0.01
1981	51	0.02	0.10	56	0.004	0.034							51	0.01	0.03
1982	57	0.01	0.07	58	0.003	0.009							58	0.01	0.02
1983	56	0.01	0.03	56	0.002	0.009							57	0.00	0.02
1984	55	0.01	0.05	51	0.004	0.046							55	0.00	0.06
1985	58	0.02	0.09	58	0.005	0.017							58	0.01	0.02
14031															
1978				12	0.016	0.057									
1979	46	0.02	0.07	54	0.009	0.171							46	0.00	0.01
1980	52	0.02	0.11	54	0.005	0.021							47	0.01	0.02
1981	52	0.02	0.14	58	0.004	0.020							52	0.01	0.02
1982	57	0.01	0.05	55	0.003	0.013							58	0.00	0.02
1983	55	0.01	0.04	55	0.002	0.016							55	0.00	0.03
1984	50	0.02	0.05	50	0.004	0.039							50	0.00	0.03
1985	55	0.02	0.05	55	0.005	0.018							55	0.01	0.03

Table A4. continued

Station and Year	Manganese # of samples	Manganese Avg.	Manganese Max.	Nickel # of samples	Nickel Avg.	Nickel Max.	Nitrate # of samples	Nitrate Avg.	Nitrate Max.	Sulphate # of samples	Sulphate Avg.	Sulphate Max.	Vanadium # of samples	Vanadium Avg.	Vanadium Max.
14064															
1981	57	0.02	0.07	57	0.008	0.056	57	4.7	16.2	57	10.9	29.5	57	0.02	0.12
1982	52	0.03	0.21	53	0.009	0.067	51	4.3	15.6	51	10.3	32.6	52	0.01	0.11
1983	57	0.03	0.13	45	0.007	0.053	57	4.8	16.2	57	11.2	29.7	57	0.02	0.17
1984	57	0.02	0.14	57	0.005	0.037	57	3.5	15.8	57	8.0	19.9	57	0.01	0.10
1985	57	0.03	0.21	57	0.007	0.027	57	3.3	10.1	57	7.5	25.8	57	0.01	0.06

APPENDIX 4

TOTAL REDUCED SULPHUR
CARBON MONOXIDE, OXIDES OF NITROGEN,
HYDROCARBONS AND OZONE

Table A5. Summary of data for total reduced sulphurs, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbons.

Pollutant and Criteria	Station number	Year 1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
Total reduced sulphur									
Annual average (ppm)	14064	0.000	0.001 (b)						
Percentage of values above 1-hr criterion[(a)]	14064	0.02	0.19 (b)						
Carbon Monoxide									
Annual average (ppm)	14064	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of values above: 1-hr criterion	14064	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8-hr criterion	14064	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: (a) Criterion for hydrogen sulphide
(b) 4 months of data

Table A5. continued

Pollutant and Criteria	Station number	Year 1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
Nitric oxide									
Annual average (ppm)	14064	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Nitrogen dioxide									
Annual average (ppm)	14064	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Percentage of values above: 1-hr criterion	14064	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0	0
24-hr criterion	14064	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total oxides of nitrogen									
Annual average (ppm)	14064	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03
Total hydrocarbons									
Annual average (ppm)	14064	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.7

Table A6. Summary of data for ozone

Station and Parameter	Year								
	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977
Station 14064									
Annual average (ppm)	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.022	0.023	0.018[a]	
Number of values above 1-hr criterion	47	80	116	56	67	68	130	56[a]	
Percentage of values above 1-hr criterion	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.4[a]	
Station 14118									
Annual average (ppm)	0.028	0.026	0.019	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.027	0.029	0.027
Number of values above 1-hr criterion	25	120	16	10	85	39	138	249	182
Percentage of values above 1-hr criterion	0.6[a]	1.6	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.5	1.7	3.5	2.6

Note: [a] based on 6 months data